IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Shotaro Takemoto, et al.

Examiner:

Unassigned

Serial No:

To be assigned

Art Unit:

Unassigned

Filed:

Herewith

Docket:

16224Z

For:

ENDOSCOPIC SUTURING SYSTEM

Dated:

December 1, 2003

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following reference, which is also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,171,258, dated December 15, 1992, issued to Bales et al.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

Express Mailing Label No.: EV219147445US

Date of Deposit: December 1, 2003

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: December 1, 2003

Thomas Spinelli

The above-cited reference is not being submitted herewith, as copies of U.S. patents are no longer required per the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) in effect as of June

30, 2003. The relevance of the above-cited reference has been described in the specification.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Spinelli

Registration No.: 39,533

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser 400 Garden City Plaza Garden City, New York 11530 (516) 742-4343

TS:cm

Docket Number (Optional) Application Number 16224Z To be assigned INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION Applicant(s) Shotaro Takemoto, et al. (Use several sheets if necessary) Filing Date Group Art Unit Herewith Unassigned **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS** EXAMINER FILING DATE DOCUMENT NUMBER DATE CLASS SUBCLASS NAME INITIAL IF APPROPRIATE 5,171,258 12/15/1992 Bales et al.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
	KEF .	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY			YES	NO
		(1-1 ₁ , -1-1 ₁)						
1								

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

		 _				
EXAMINER	 		DATE (CONSIDERED	, ,	
			l l			

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.